

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method of distributing a multimedia object comprising the acts of:

downloading by a client device the multimedia object from a distributing server, wherein the client device is connected to a peer-to-peer file sharing network;

redistributing by the client device the multimedia object over the peer-to-peer file sharing network; and

rewarding an operator of the client device for the redistributing act.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the act of keeping track of a number of times that the

client device redistributes the multimedia object over the peer-to-peer file sharing network, wherein the rewarding act is in dependence on said number of times.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, in which the reward comprises at least one of a discount on a price normally paid for downloading a multimedia object from the distributing server, a number of points for use in a bonus system, an electronic coupon, a permission to download one or more further multimedia objects from the distributing server, metadata related to the multimedia object, and a ticket for an appearance of a performer of the multimedia object.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the acts of:

obtaining an identifier for the operator of the client device before the redistributing act; and

embedding the identifier in the multimedia object by a watermark before ~~the client device~~ the downloading act.

5. (Previously Presented) A method of enabling distribution of a multimedia object, comprising the acts of:

receiving by a server a request for the multimedia object from a client device;

forwarding by the server the request to a file sharing network;

receiving by the server an indication from a node in the file sharing network indicating that the node is able to distribute the multimedia object to the client device;

distributing the multimedia object from the node to the client device; and

rewarding an operator of the node for said distributing act.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, further comprising the act of authorizing the request before forwarding the request to the file sharing network.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the

authorizing act comprises obtaining payment from an operator of the client device.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the forwarding includes the acts of:

obtaining a fingerprint for the multimedia object; and
submitting a query comprising the fingerprint to the node in the file sharing network.

9. (Previously Presented) A system for enabling distribution of a multimedia object, the system comprising:

a distributing server arranged for receiving a request for the multimedia object from a client device and for forwarding the request to a file sharing network, and

an accounting server for receiving an indication from a node in the file sharing network indicating that the node is able to distribute the multimedia object to the client device, and for rewarding an operator of the node for said distributing.

10. (Currently Amended) A client device for use in the system of claim 9, comprising a tracking module arranged for keeping track of a number of times that the client device redistributes the particular multimedia object over the peer-to-peer file sharing network, and for transmitting said number of times to the accounting server.